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By Application.

National, Democratic Organ of Jewish Thought

Published Every Friday

Long Live Allied Victory!

The day has come when we, victims of Fascist aggression in Asia, can join our voice to that of the rest of our nation liberated by Allied victory from the death menace of Treblinkas and ghettos and cry out in boundless joy: we are saved!

We are saved, and our salvation is not only inseparably bound with Allied victory, it is part and parcel of it. All of us like one man knew that the alternative would be extinction and we have fought this war on the Allied side if not on the actual battlefield then in our hearts and minds. Six million Jewish victims who met their death not as gallant war heroes but in gas-cells and ghettos, is no mean contribution to the Allied cause, the contribution which the post-war world of Freedom and Justice will not be prone to minimize.

We say "The post-war world of Freedom and Justice", for we firmly believe that the world emerged out of the carnage and chaos of the past decade would have to be a much more decent and cleaner place for each man to live in. And in that world we, Jews, should win back our place of honour and dignity both as individuals and as a nation.

There is no doubt in our minds that we should be willing to become the most zealous architects of this future world, in ways big and small, knowing that we are building a solid abode for our children uninhabited by ghosts of hatred and prejudice that would scare them at night.

In the years gone by it was often said that Jewish children should not be born into the world that has no place for them and, perhaps, this cruel sentence was true. Their unborn souls have at least escaped the futile quest of the Blue Bird of Happiness so well depicted by Meterlinck! Let all those who have been born, however, not regret that a part



of their lives was spent in the dark. "The darker was the night, the brighter will be stars", and still brighter the dazzling sun, the dawn of which we are welcoming at present.

It would be erroneous to expect, however, that heavenly manna would be dropped for us from the clear skies without any effort on our part. To build the life on principles of equality, freedom and justice would require years of hard toil in all spheres of human endeavour; it would mean waging an ideological war against all remnants of poisonous doctrines implanted in the minds of thousands of people and preaching the new democratic gospel from all the pulpits and forums of the world.

It would be no exaggeration to say, however, that of all nations we, Jews, should form the most receptive audience for such a gospel. We are instinctively predisposed towards democratic principles which alone secure us, a weak minority, rights and freedom on a par with those nationals among whom we live. And whenever these principles are lacking, we are faced with restrictions of our most primitive rights, "Designated Areas", yellow armbands and other similar manifestations of inequality and exploitation.

The war that has just ended has retrieved for humanity its place in the twentieth century civilization which it had lost in the last decade. It has recovered the human values trampled into the mud by wild Teutonic hordes.

And it has given Jews both as individuals and as a nation a new lease on life.

Long Live the Allied Victory!

Long live the peoples and leaders who have achieved it!

A. G.

"OUR LIFE"

Extends Heartfelt Felicitations
to its Friends and Readers
on occasion

of

ROSH HASHONO

and

"V" DAY

Let's Be Faithfull to the Memory of Millions of Jewish War Victims!
Let's Achieve Liberty and Happiness for Our People!

American Goodwill Mission Pays Comfort Visits to Jewish Refugees

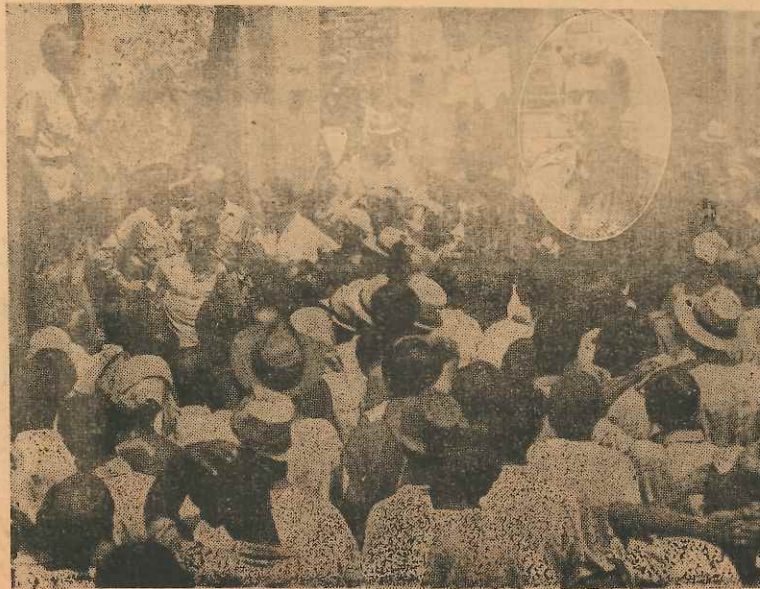
August 30, 1945 will certainly be remembered as a red-letter day by each Jewish refugee in Shanghai, and we take the liberty to opine that if the American Goodwill Mission did not accomplish anything else during their visit to this city, their task would be justified by their calling on the so-called "Designated Area" where 17,000 Jewish refugees led a cheerless life restricted in most primitive rights since the notorious Proclamation of February 18, 1943.

To the one who has closely followed the misery - pregnant life of the Jewish refugees in Shanghai, who has seen their mass exodus to the "Area", and who has had a chance to witness other manifestations of their sorrowful fate, it is difficult to find adequate words for expressing the joy and hope animating their souls when they listened to the words of comfort addressed to them by Major Schoyer, the Head of the Mission. Symbolic of the new era for them, Major Schoyer's speech, though not containing any serious commitments, brought forth mirth and jubilation of thousands of refugees, who listened with fixed attention interrupted only by thunderous cheers.

The Mission paid a series of visits to refugee camps and institutions according to a plan worked out before. Maj. B. P. Schoyer, Lt. Com. H. F. Shoemaker, Capt. Noah Levin, Lt. John Cox and Mr. E. R. Healey took part in the tour, being accompanied by Mr. Siegel, American Joint's representative who was interned here during the war, Mr. J. S. Bitker from Shanghai Joint and Messrs. Lawrence and Horace Kadoorie.

Starting with a visit to the East Seward Rd. camp, where the Mission met delegates of refugee organizations and press wearing special identification badges, they proceeded to the Wayside and Ward Rd. camps, visiting the S. R. Hospital, Kindergarten and some other institutions, and wound up with a visit to the Kadoorie School.

The so-called "official" part of the pleasantly unofficial function was held at the East Seward Rd. cantine, where the honourable guests were offered to partake of the refugee lunch and where they mixed with the crowd of invited guests. Mr. M. Siegel representing American Joint delivered a welcome speech emphasizing the gratitude of all refugees for the attention shown them by the American Mission, following which the Mission was greeted by Mr. Schwalb representing camp inmates. The cantine, as well as the facade of the camp,



Major Schoyer, Head of American Relief Mission, addressing Jewish Refugees in Hongkew (Basch & Bushel)

"Reforms in Relief Are Necessary And Will Be Made"

Said Mr. Siegel, American "Joint"'s Representative in Shanghai in a Special Interview with "Our Life"

Interviewed by "Our Life" for the first time since his release from the internment camp, Mr. M. Siegel, American "Joint"'s representative in Shanghai, declined to discuss plans or pending changes in relief administration as yet. Explaining that his entire time until present has been taken by establishing good relations with the American Relief Mission and by the necessity to raise funds locally in view of the disruption of communication with Switzerland, Mr. Siegel said that as soon as position clarifies he will set to the task of studying the situation with a view to establishing the most efficient and democratic relief organization.

"One point, however, should be made clear already at this juncture", said Mr. Siegel "and that is that there is absolutely no future in relief. 'I hope that we shall be able to help the refugees with some plans of reconstruction or rehabilitation, of which it is too early to speak yet except in most general terms. However, as I see it, these plans will consist of fitting as many of refugees as possible into the economic life of China and also of helping those who desire to leave for other countries to do so. All this, naturally, will take time.'"

"In this connection the refugees should know", said Mr. Siegel "that some time in the past years an organization known as UNRRA (United Nations Rehabilitation Association) was set up of which Herbert Lehman, former Governor of the New York State is the Head. Its purpose is to help by giving relief to those who suffered through the war, and refugee relief forms a part of its program. It is important to know, however, that it has nothing to do with compensation and indemnities, but only with relief necessary for re-establishing the people in their former position as independent and self-supporting citizens."

"The representative of UNRRA is now in Shanghai", said Mr. Siegel, "and its branch is shortly to be opened here."

"All refugees should regard their present status as a transitory period from the old to the new, and transitory periods are always trying and difficult", said Mr. Siegel, adding that he hopes the refugees will maintain discipline and good order until reforms have been made.

"Reforms would be necessary and they will be made" he emphasized in conclusion.

A. G.

were decorated with flags of Allied nations and a poster at the entrance reading: "Welcome to our Liberators".

Major Schoyer in his address to the refugees stated that the purpose of their visit was to let the refugees see for themselves that the war was over. The American Goodwill Mission Head further said that they came to Shanghai to help interness and refugees in a few small ways for the present time, "There are neither millions nor ships at our disposal to render you assistance in that form in which it should be necessary" he said, promising, however, to make a close study of all refugee problems with a view to referring them later to Washington. "We would be unable to see all of you to hear of your troubles", said Major Schoyer, "but we should be ready to receive your delegates and promise to give them our sympathetic attention. Extensive help will probably come later through diplomatic people or some organization", he said, mentioning that the end of the war came so suddenly that it took everyone unawares.

Unfortunately, due to an unexpected change in their schedule, the Mission had to curtail the tour and thus some of the places they originally had planned to visit were left thronged with disappointed people. While visiting the S. R. Hospital, the Mission expressed sympathy to the injured in July bombing, and on their way to the Kadoorie School they inspected the bombed area including the SACRA house.

The memorable visit ended with a visit to the Kadoorie School where the Mission and Mr. Horace Kadoorie, the founder of the School, were given an enthusiastic welcome, this being Mr. Kadoorie's first appearance in the School after the war. Mrs. Hartwich, the Headmistress of the School, delivered a short address, after which the stars-and-stripes-raising ceremony was held accompanied by the rendition of "God Bless America" by the school choir. "God Save the King" and "Hatikvah" were also sung, the Mission and guests forming a picturesque group on the green lawn next to the hoisted flag surrounded by thousands of enthusiastic refugees.

The scene was "shot" by numerous camera-men, but even without it it would long live in the memory of those who witnessed it as a symbol of goodwill and sympathy on the part of the Great America to the unfortunate Jewish victims of fascist aggression.

A. G.

New Year - New Era!

לשנה מזבה תכתבו!

From Our Hongkew Correspondent

How Refugees Took It

A Diary Record

August 10th. At about 10.30 p.m. a madwoman, with distorted features and dishevelled hair, tore down the deserted streets of my neighbourhood, shouting at the top of her voice: "The war is over! The war is over! Some people sitting in front of their houses to catch what little breeze there was after an oppressing day, heard her and laughed. Then they recognized her. She was Mrs. B., a well-behaved, quiet woman.

"What's the matter? — "It is true, believe me! I have it on the best authority. It is all over the town. It is over!" Others joined the group, debating, doubting, confirming. "Don't be silly! Another of these confounded rumours! It is not true!" — "Yes it is, this time it is! People in French Town, in Chusan Road, are already celebrating!" — "Beware of rumours!" — "Be careful, keep quiet!" — "From the Czechoslovakian Club they telephoned to the Swiss Consulate and had it confirmed. It is true!"



Mr. Ghoya, the self-named "King of the Jews", is seen admiring the Poster "Stateless Refugees are not Allowed to Pass"...

They are like a conjurer's formula that, once pronounced, cannot be retracted at will. So fraught are they with tremendous consequences that, once they have been officially uttered, however conditionally, they tend with elementary force to become realities.

Crowds gathering everywhere. Practically nobody stays at home, can stay at home. Discussing, shouting, howling. Songs are springing up, German, Jiddish, Polish, Russian. Sights experienced once or twice in a lifetime repeating themselves: complete strangers congratulating, embracing each other. Spontaneous celebrations held in private homes in the streets, wherever some little alcohol tucked away for this very purpose comes to light. All comers are free to join in, all barriers have fallen, every house, every block of houses is but one family.

We have been severely censored for this night's "disorderly conduct" by critics both within and without. But considering the overwhelming significance of the news, its tremendous impact on nerves already strained to breaking point, the sudden relaxation after 5 years of unbearable tension, I dare you to show me a crowd of any race or nationality that would have done less.

There have been, I am sorry to admit, some cases of the crowd taking the law in their own hands. Some persons having gathered upon themselves more than an ordinary portion of public dislike, have been roughly handled. But it went in no case beyond a sound trashing and in most cases the people concerned did not get more than what was coming to them.

And, oh yes, the signboards marking the borders have disappeared in the course of this night. So what? Were not these signs really the symbol of all that was hateful to us, of discrimination and restriction and oppression?

August 11th. Early morning. Impossible to catch two winks of sleep. No sooner have you tried to lie down than another acquaintance comes up to take you for discussion and celebration. So better make the best of it and go for an early survey of the streets.

8 A. M. Around Wayside Police Station crowds are gathering, especially noticeable are some O.D. Men and Betari, both in uniform, deep in talk with Russian Policemen. And then the most phantastic story I heard in years flares up: the refugees have seized the Wayside Police Station!

The Charge-room presents an unforgettable sight. No

Japanese or foreign Police Officer is present. On one side of the huge desk an O. D. Man, and on the other a Betari, are deeply crouched in the chairs with their feet on the desk. Behind, some Chinese police men observe the scene. Not a word is being spoken.

I had to run over to French Town to attend to some business. But the amazing news had preceded me. Wherever I went I was greeted with the words: "The refugees have taken over Wayside Station?"



A familiar scene in Mr. Ghoya's Office with refugees lined up for "Special Passes"

And here is the authentic story of this mad occurrence: early in the morning the rumour had spread that all Japanese officers had left the Station. So some energetic measure seemed indicated. Both the named organisations felt the urge to "take over". They did it in the way pictured above.

At about 10.30 the Japanese officers came in for duty. Very politely they thanked the Blues and the Browns for their readiness to assist them, pointing out, however, that they were quite sure they could nicely manage for themselves. So the intruders retreated in good order and the "seizure" of the Wayside Station was at an end.

An operetta turn? Yes, but one that, but for the really sensible and conciliatory attitude of the Japanese officers, could have taken a very nasty aspect. Just stop to think what it means, in the midst of a military occupied zone, to try to take possession of a little thing like a police station!

The Betar have at least the benefit of their youth. But how about the O. D. (Ordnungs-Dienst or Camp Police)? Are they not the famous "order service", strictly disciplined and under a unified command who, so it was whispered, are really here to protect in the case of an emergency and who, for this very reason, have been lately increased beyond all reasonable

proportion? Who gave them the orders to be a party to this dangerous game? And if they acted without orders, why were they not called to account? Or were they?

But this occurrence goes to show something else, namely, what a dangerous thing all these paramilitary bodies are for their own people. Wearing something like a uniform unfortunately always results in giving their members a quite unwarranted feeling of their own importance. We, middle — European Jews

should have known better, having suffered so much from like formations. But, unfortunately, we don't know a bad thing when it springs up in our own ranks. There have been much too many to derive a tremendous kick from wearing uniforms, and if not uniforms, garments as uniform-like as possible, and if that too was unattainable, sporting at least chevrons and armlets and titles borrowed from military organisations. May be this occurrence will open some people's eyes as to where these things are leading up.

1. P. M. At my return the picture has completely changed. No more crowds nor shouting. The District has regained its normal aspect and traffic has shifted from Muirhead Road to near-by Chusan Road where other incidents than "seizures" are being dealt with.

August 12th. If commotion in the streets has subsided, another danger has suddenly cropped up, — a complete collapse of the currency. Yesterday most, and to-day nearly all, shops were closed and boarded up and for a time it looked as if dealers refused to sell against C. R. B. Dollars. Cigarettes have disappeared, sugar soared to as much as 200,000. — a lb. For 1 U.S.\$, any rate from 200,000. — to 500,000. — was quoted, but with no sellers.

(Continued on page 4)

America Will Know of Shanghai Ghetto

"Our Life"'s Representative Meets American War Correspondents On their Stopover at Shanghai

"America will be interested to hear of the Shanghai Ghetto", said Mr. W. Lawrence, special correspondent of the New York Times, one of the most influential American papers, when interviewed by "Our Life"'s representative in the lobby of the Metropol Hotel.

Mr. Lawrence came here by plane with a batch of 10 American war correspondents on August 28 for a short stopover, having left the town twenty four hours later for Japan to cover the Allied landing there.

Mr. Lawrence was not able to pay a visit to the Shanghai Ghetto during his short stay here, but he intends to make it up on his return to the city in about a fortnight. "I intend to 'do' this story for my paper," he said, "and am only too sorry that I couldn't collect the necessary information as yet". Using the opportunity to learn of the notorious Proclamation of February 18, 1943, the correspondent asks "Our Life"'s representative to tell him of the restrictions imposed by the Proclamation upon the stateless refugees, what is their present economic status, etc. He seems to be especially interested to know whether the Japanese maltreated the refugees like Nazis did in Germany. The story of the procedure of the "special passes" issue in the Stateless Refugee Bureau and the accompanying conduct of Messrs. Ghoya and Okura seems to satisfy him, and he reiterates his intention to inform the American readers of what he terms "the most ignominious part of the Japanese occupational regime".

Mr. Lawrence explained the reason for his brief visit to Shanghai. "We came to cover the occupation by American forces" he said, "and expected to meet here Chinese troops under American command, but were quite disappointed being welcomed by the Japanese". To the question whether this made them shorten their sojourn in Shanghai, the correspondent smiled and replied that they are anxious to be in Japan at the time of the landing of American forces.

The representative of "Our Life" asks Mr. Lawrence whether the "Joint" in America carried out a wide publicity campaign in benefit of refugee relief in Shanghai. "Nothing very big", answered the correspondent. "America, mind you, has become thoroughly war-minded, and nothing but war news was in the limelight. Now the war is over, and we can turn our attention to other problems" he added.

The interview was brought to an end here, for Mr. Lawrence suddenly remembered that he hasn't shaved and the plane is to take off soon. Making his apologies, he disappeared behind the door of the hotel's barber-shop.

The second war correspondent with whom "Our Life" had a special interview was Lieut.-Col. John R. McCrary who was heading the group of correspondents. Looking surprisingly young for his name and rank, Col. McCrary received "Our Life"'s representative quarter of an hour prior to his taking leave of Shanghai dressed in a pilot's uniform with a stripe "war correspondent" on the sleeve. The talk with him was quite a thrilling adventure, for the correspondent related in a few brief phrases his eventful career during the last stage of the war. "I followed the

fanning flame of the Allied offensive" he said, "was in France, Czechoslovakia, Austria and the Balkans. Three weeks ago I was in Berlin. You would be probably interested to know how life is going on in the former Nazi land under the Soviet occupation, and I may tell you that the Soviet administration is quite up to the mark. Moreover, we, Americans, take not a little surprise in the fact that the Russians are not meting out any cruelties on the German population which would be only natural in the way of revenge. The Soviet command has permitted the fraternization with the Germans, and you see Russian soldiers in the streets and cafes in the company of German men and girls. On the contrary, no fraternization is

allowed in the American occupation zone, and thus the Americans are treating the Germans much more severely than the Russians, despite the fact that our population has not suffered the burden of the German occupation and on the whole felt the war much less than the Russian people".

Col. McCrary is called to the car. He is surrounded by a group of reporters, cameramen and well-wishers. Clicks of cameras, waving of American flags. And quarter of an hour later, on the way back from Metropol Hotel, I see above the rooftops the silver beauty "Flying Fortress", taking away from us the representatives of freedom-loving, democratic American press.

A. G.

How Refugees Took It

(Continued from page 3)

Rumours are going around that the armistice has already been signed and that American parachute troops are expected any moment. But the radio goes on giving war news.

Mr. Osano of the Japanese Police appealed to the senior Foreign Pao Chia officers to get their people for the duty. The officers refused, claiming to have no authority over their men.

Late in the evening a radio broadcast came through to the effect that Pao Chia duty had to continue as usual. Since nobody reported for duty, the "Joint" finally hired some people to do the job.

August 13th. The currency chaos has been suddenly and mysteriously brought to a halt. The U.S.\$ was quoted at about 160,000.—, sugar dropped to 50,000 and less. Shops are again reopened, cigarettes are again in evidence, at double price.

In the radio, head-quarter reports as usual. People are getting uneasy, and talks about a hitch in the negotiations are going around.

Mr. Kubota held a gathering of senior Pao Chia officers, with Mr. Ghoya acting as an interpreter. He gave them a severe dressing down. While favourably impressed on July 17th when bombs were dropped in the area, and being a genuine friend of the Jewish people, he has been sorely disappointed by our behaviour. "You have dropped the mask and we have

seen your true face. You were mistaken. You have been listening to rumours. The war is going on. Pao Chia has to carry on, under severe penalty."

August 14th. Japanese Gendarmery parties are patrolling the streets and stopping all refugees for passes examination. At certain places, they even make them line up in the glaring sun for half an hour and more. Control measures have been considerably tightened. What does this sudden display of authority mean?

August 15. The end. The Imperial rescript and other proclamations.

Strange how different popular reaction in now from what it was on the 10th. To-day, hardly a loud word is to be heard. Just quiet congratulating and handshaking. Maybe it is just as well that people have spent their explosive energy five days ago!

And how about the District? Why, no change whatsoever? I should have liked so much to have this piece headlined: "The last days of the District". But I can't. For the new Chinese Police chief, Mr. Szu, has already declared. "Regulations pertaining to the District have not been cancelled and are to be strictly obeyed".

Well, well. War or no war, orders is orders and District is District. But for how long yet?

Joc.

Shanghai Jewish School Starts Autumn Term on October 1

Having retrieved its premises in Seymour Road, from which it was evicted by the Japanese, the Shanghai Jewish School will start its new school year on October 1, said Mr. B. Kahan, Headmaster of the School when interviewed by "Our Life".

In view of the Jewish holidays and the repairs that are necessary to re-adopt the School building for its original purpose after it had been used as an air-raid shelter by the Japanese, the autumn term will start a month later than usual this year, said Mr. Kahan.

Improvement in School curriculum has been visualized, he said, for many teachers have been released from internment camps, and the School will do its best in, engaging the best available pedagogues.

Victory Ball

For the past week, Shanghai has been buzzing with rumours about the Gala Victory Ball that is being planned by the Fifth (Jewish) Shanghai Rovers and the Junior B'nai B'rith (AZA).

FLASH! The latest communique from their headquarters reveals that the date of the function has definitely been set for the 19th September, Wednesday, at 8.00 at the lovely, romantic beauty-spot, "Rio Villa", at 888 Weihaiwei Road.

There will be amusing skits, acrobatic displays, and a magnificent number: *The Dance of the United Nations*.

The next issue of this paper will carry further details, so until then, folks, please stand by for further news.

Watch for it!

Frank Werfel Prematurely in U. S. A.

Beverly Hills, August 28, CN.

Franz Werfel, famous German-Jewish writer, who was the first to raise protest against Nazism, died here today at the age of 54.

Franz Werfel fled from Germany to Paris and spent one year in the German concentration camp in France. He managed to escape and came to USA.

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